Appi. No. 09/903,366 Amdt. Dated April 21, 2005 Reply to Office action of February 22, 2005 Attorney Docket No. P13692-US2 EUS/J/P/05-1102

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Cancelled)
- 5. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting a faulty path in a communication network having a control-plane entity and a user-plane entity, comprising the steps of:

sending, from the control-plane entity to the user-plane entity, an event in accordance with a media gateway control protocol, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when the user-plane entity discovers [[a]] the faulty path;

sending at least one heartbeat message through the path;

determining whether [[a]] one of said at least one heartbeat acknowledgment message has been received through the path; and

if [[a]] one of said at least one heartbeat acknowledgment message has not been received, notifying the control-plane entity of the faulty path.

- 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of sending, from the control-plane entity to the user-plane entity, a signal in accordance with the media gateway control protocol, wherein the signal orders the user-plane entity to send heartbeat messages through the path.
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the communication network provides general packet radio service.
- 8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the communication network is a circuit-switched network using packet bearers.

Appl. No. 09/903,366 Arndt. Dated April 21, 2005 Reply to Office action of February 22, 2005 Attorney Docket No. P13692-US2 EUS/J/P/05-1102

9. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting a re-started user-plane peer in a communication network having a control-plane entity and a user-plane entity, comprising the steps of:

sending, from the control-plane entity to the user-plane entity, an event in accordance with a media gateway control protocol, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when the user-plane entity discovers a restarted user-plane peer;

sending successive heartbeat messages to a user-plane peer;

receiving successive heartbeat acknowledgment messages from the user-plane peer, wherein the heartbeat acknowledgment messages include re-start counter values;

comparing re-start counter values of successive pairs of received heartbeat acknowledgment messages from [[a]] the user-plane peer; and

if the comparison indicates that the user-plane peer has been re-started, notifying the control-plane entity of the re-started user-plane peer.

- 10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of sending, from the control-plane entity to the user-plane entity, a signal in accordance with the media gateway control protocol, wherein the signal orders the user-plane entity to send heartbeat messages to the user-plane peer.
- 11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the communication network provides general packet radio service.
- 12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the communication network is a circuit-switched network using packet bearers.
